

Message Text

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ACTION INT-05

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7785

INFO USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS MANAGUA 3264

FOR DIRECTOR, U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, DEPT OF INTERIOR,
AND DIRECTOR, NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE, USDOC

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SENV, NU

SUBJECT: PROPOSED ADDING OF GREEN, LOGGERHEAD, AND PACIFIC
RIDLEY SEA TURTLES TO US LIST OF ENDANGERED SPECIES

REF: STATE 155105

1. PURSUANT TO STATE 155105 OF JULY 1, THIS EMBASSY ON JULY 3
SENT THE GOVERNMENT OF NICARAGUA A DIPLOMATIC NOTE ON THE PROPOSAL
TO ADD CERTAIN SEA TURTLES TO THE ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST AND
FORBID THEIR IMPORTATION INTO THE U.S.

2. IN A NOTE DATED AUGUST 12 BUT RECEIVED IN THE EMBASSY ON AUGUST
19 THE GON REPLIED ASKING THAT IMPORTATION OF THESE SPECIES BE
PERMITTED INTO THE U.S. FROM NICARAGUA. COPIES OF THE NOTE HAVE
BEEN POUCHED TO THE FISHERIES SERVICES. AN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION
FOLLOWS:

3. QUOTE. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS EXTENDS ITS
COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES AND HAS THE
HONOR TO REFER TO TITS NOTE 32 OF JULY 3 WHICH INFORMED THAT IT
WAS PROPOSED TO LIST THE GREEN SEA TURTLE (CHELONIA MYDAS),
THE LOGGERHEAD SEA TURTLE (CARETTA CARETTA) AND THE PACIFIC
RIDLEY SEA TURTLE (LEPIDOCHELYS OLIVACEA) AS "THREATENED
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SPECIES" UNDER THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT OF 1973.

NICARAGUA IS AWARE OF AND IN FAVOR OF THE NEED FOR CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES, ESPECIALLY AS THEY ARE THE ONLY SOURCE OF INCOME FOR MORE THAN 200 FAMILIES WHICH LIVE FROM THE FISHING OF THIS RESOURCE; IT IS FOR THIS THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH DECREE NO. 204 OF JULY "2, 1972, PUBLISHED IN THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE NO. 168 OF THE SAME MONTH AND YEAR, NICARAGUA MAINTAINS A CLOSED SEASON OF FOUR MONTHS IN APRIL, MAY, JUNE AND JULY (OF EACH YEAR) NOTWITHSTANDING THE ABOVE AND WITH THE INTENTION OF MAINTAINING AN OPTIMUM LEVEL OF CAPTURE OF SEA TURTLES IN THE PERIOD 1975-76, THE CAPTURE WILL BE LIMITED ON THE ATLANTIC COAST TO 7,000 TURTLES OF A MINIMUM WEIGHT OF 150 LBS. EACH AND THAT 60 PERCENT OF THE CAPTURE MUST BE MALE TURTLES.

WITH THESE MEASURES, THE FISHING OF THIS SPECIE WILL BE REDUCED 30 PERCENT.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ABOVE, IT IS SINCERELY REQUESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES PERMIT THE IMPORTATION OF SPECIMENS OR PRODUCTS OF THE THREE MENTIONED SPECIES FROM NICARAGUA.

COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE. END TRANSLATION.
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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